Facilities for setting up small scale industries in rural areas

922. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain small scale industries which could be set in rural areas by entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are the details of such industries; and

(c) what facilities are being given for setting up small scale industries in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The small scale industries which could be set up in rural areas by entrepreneurs have been reflected in the action plans prepared by each DIC in the country.

(b) The industries identified broadly include industries based on local resources, local demand, and local skill. These have been categorised in groups like agro-based, forest based, mineral based, animal husbandry produced based, chemical based, engineering and allied industries, ceramics etc.

(c) Both the Central Government and the State Governments provide various facilities and incentives for starting industries in rural areas. These include concessional finance from financial institutions, capital subsidy, rebate in income-tax and sales tax preference in the allocation of raw materials, allotment of sheds and other inputs.

FICCI's demand for liberalisation of licensing and controls

923. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FICCI has demanded further liberalisation of licensing and controls; if so, what exactly are their demands;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government are having a second thought about relaxation of controls as reported in the Press; and

(c) if not, whether Government have conceded to the demands of FICCI.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) It is understood that President, FICCI has made certain suggestions in this regard recently in a Press Conference. His suggestions included review of Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956, liberalisation of licensing policy in the area of delicensing, expansion of the scope of the scheme of broad banding, automatic expansion of capacity etc.

(b) and (c) The suggestions made by the various agencies including those from FICCI are taken into account while considering further liberalisation of the Industrial Licensing Policy and Procedure.

Non-commercial soft loan for sick units in West Bengal

924. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: SHRI N. E. BALRAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of West Bengal have suggested introduction of non commercial soft loans for the survival of sick units;

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestion; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.